

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Currently amended) A method for enhancing venous return to the heart,
2 the method comprising:
3 repetitively compressing the patient's chest;
4 delivering a positive pressure breath for about 0.5 seconds to about 2 seconds to a
5 person suffering from low blood pressure or head trauma;
6 actively extracting respiratory gases from the person's airway following the
7 positive pressure breath to create an intrathoracic vacuum to enhance venous return to the heart,
8 wherein the intrathoracic vacuum lowers the person's intrathoracic pressure to about -1mm Hg to
9 about -20mm Hg; and
10 repeating the steps of delivering positive pressure breaths and extracting
11 respiratory gases.
- 1 2. (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising interfacing an
2 impedance threshold valve to the person's airway, wherein the threshold valve prevents airflow
3 to the person's lungs when attempting to inspire until the threshold valve opens, thereby
4 augmenting blood flow back to the heart.
- 1 3. (Original) A method as in claim 2, wherein the threshold valve is
2 configured to open when the negative intrathoracic pressure exceeds about -7 cmH₂O.
- 1 4. (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising interfacing a flow
2 limiting valve to the patient's airway and regulating the pressure or the volume of the positive
3 pressure breath with the flow limiting valve.
- 1 5. (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising interfacing a
2 pressure source and a vacuum source to the person to deliver the positive pressure breath and to
3 extract the respiratory gases.

1 6. (Original) A method as in claim 5, wherein the pressure source and the
2 vacuum source comprise a compressible bag system.

1 7. (Original) A method as in claim 6, further comprising reconfiguring the
2 compressible bag system to operate only as a pressure source.

1 8. (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising exhausting the
2 extracted respiratory gases to the atmosphere.

1 9. (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising varying the
2 duration of the positive pressure breaths or the extraction of the respiratory gases over time.

1 10. (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising supplying
2 supplemental oxygen to the person.

1 11. (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising monitoring at least
2 one physiological parameter of the person and varying the positive pressure breath or the
3 extraction of respiratory gases based on the monitored parameter.

1 12. (Original) A method as in claim 11, wherein the physiological parameters
2 are selected from a group consisting of end tidal CO₂, oxygen saturation, blood pressure and
3 cardiac output.

1 13. (Original) A method as in claim 11, further comprising varying the
2 amplitude of the positive pressure breath or the extraction of respiratory gases.

1 14. (Original) A method as in claim 6, wherein the respiratory gases are
2 extracted upon recoiling of the compressible bag system.

1 15. (Currently amended) A method as in claim 1, ~~wherein the intrathoracic~~
2 ~~vacuum lowers the person's intrathoracic pressure to about -1mm Hg to about -20mm Hg, and~~
3 wherein the intrathoracic vacuum is in the range from about -2mm Hg to about -60mm Hg.

1 16. (Original) A method as in claim 1, further comprising measuring the
2 volume of the positive pressure breath.

1 17. (Original) A method as in claim 11, further comprising transmitting
2 information on the measured parameter to a remote receiver.

 Claims 18-19 (canceled).

 Claims 20-34 (canceled).

 Claim 35 (canceled).

1 36. (New) A method for treating a person with low blood pressure or head
2 trauma who needs assisted ventilation, the method comprising:
3 delivering a positive pressure breath for about 0.5 seconds to about 2 seconds to a
4 person suffering from low blood pressure or head trauma;
5 actively extracting respiratory gases from the person's airway following the
6 positive pressure breath to create an intrathoracic vacuum to enhance venous return to the heart,
7 wherein the intrathoracic vacuum lowers the person's intrathoracic pressure to about -1mm Hg to
8 about -20mm Hg; and
9 repeating the steps of delivering positive pressure breaths and extracting
10 respiratory gases.